Brig. Gen. select Regner Rider
AIA Vice Commander

As this issue of the *Spokesman* looks back at our 50-year history, I'd like to reflect on one particular aspect of it — the intelligence career field. It has quite a lot to do with our past, our present, and it looks to have some interesting twists and turns in the future. I'm well aware that only 35 percent of the Air Intelligence Agency's population is actually in the intelligence career field, but the rest of us contribute in large and small ways to its overall concept — to bring the best and most current information to the fight and to our decision-makers.

As a B-52 pilot, I've been listening to intelligence briefings for a long time, and to be honest, that's how I viewed the intelligence field — a lieutenant or an airman, who would give threat briefings and mission briefings, and be there to debrief the crew after a mission — nothing more. They lived in super-secret vaulted areas that most of the crew dogs couldn't get into, and there wasn't that much information they could share with us.

We didn't necessarily make it easy on these folks, either; with the ops/intel interface being what it was (not always friendly), it demanded some courage of a young intel troop to face the crews. It's hard to make a threat briefing interesting, especially when your audience has heard it a hundred times before — but there were some exceptions. I heard one story of a lieutenant who managed to get the best of her F-16 squadron.

Expecting the typical threat recognition briefing, the crews came in the training room and sat down facing a projection screen in front of them. When nothing happened, they turned to the young lieutenant to ask what was wrong, and she said, "You're all dead. You didn't check-six." Sure enough, she'd set up slide projectors facing each wall in the room, and behind them was a slide of a Mig-29! They spent the next half-hour swiveling around in their seats, trying to catch where the next slide would be and recognize the aircraft.

We still have analysts that focus on the "INTs" — signals, communications, measurement and signature, and human intelligence — but now many of them are as well versed in computers and bandwidth requirements as they are in their specialties. The changes taking place in the intelligence field of today show in the organization of AIA itself.

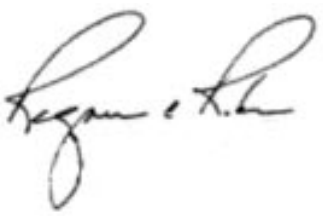
I had one intelligence captain tell me he was very surprised to find out how few traditional intel jobs there were here, both in the headquarters and the Information Warfare Center. AIA was designed not only to bring together the disparate intelligence analysts who had been working in a stovepiped fashion on their various "INTs," but also to incorporate the scientists, engineers, computer specialists and rated personnel who contribute substantially to the overall effectiveness of disseminating and using intelligence information. In fact, someone working 'intelligence' issues is very likely not to have an intelligence Air Force specialty code. It is interesting to note that many 'experts' predicted with the end of the Cold War, intelligence would no longer be a "necessary evil" in military operations. Instead, in a time of shrinking budgets and personnel, and numerous contingency operations, intelligence is becoming a central figure in our vision of the future. It just probably won't look the same.

A good indicator of the change we are already witnessing is embodied in the Air Force Intelligence Vision statement — the only place the word 'intelligence' can be found is in the title. Instead, it talks about Information Operations and Information Superiority, a concept which has been elevated by the Chief of Staff as one of the Air Force's core competencies. Change can also be found in the definition of "intelligence" personnel; instead we think they should be defined as information operators.

Since information is a domain like air and space, where it can be a weapon, a target and a place, the people who work in that domain ought to be recognized as operators. They are no longer limited to providing support, usually in the form of a finished product, as we have been accustomed to. Instead, they are part and parcel of the Air Force operator force. And certainly that role is no longer limited to intelligence personnel. Secretary Widnall is adamant about this change, asserting, "Your role is not to support the warfighters — you are the warfighters, integral members of the operational team."

What does this mean to us — who will be the "intelligence officer" of the future? What will they do? In our service's short 50 years, we've certainly come a long way from intel troops plotting pushpins on map boards to computer forensics on hacker attacks.

To figure it out, we'll need to do a lot of thinking 'out of the box,' and approach the whole field from a different vantage point. New technologies, language expertise, human resources and open source information will likely play an increasing role in how we gain, exploit, attack and defend the information domain. But it will be up to all of you to sculpt the next intelligence generation. Think about it — how do you want it to look?



Air Force: The First Fifty Years

photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Greeley

Final preparations are made on an MH-53J Pave Low III helicopter just prior to its loading into the belly of a C-5 Galaxy to support Operation Guardian Retrieval.

1st Lt. Matthew Mayberry
AIA/PA
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

The Air Force celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year, honoring a proud heritage and remembering those who have served us well. Our service was forged in fire and grew in response to an uncertain and sometimes violent world.

William "Billy" Mitchell, regarded as the father of the Air Force, called for an Air Force independent of the Army and Navy. He argued that air power was more important than the ground maneuvers of the Army or sea operations of the Navy.

When he persisted in his criticism into the spring of 1925, his appointment to the office of Assistant Chief, Air Service, with the grade of brigadier general, was denied. He reverted to the grade of colonel and was sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

After losing one of his close friends in the crash of an airship, Mitchell called a press conference. There, he openly invited a court-martial by accusing the higher command of the military departments of incompetence, criminal negligence and inaction in the interest of national defense.

In October 1925, Mitchell was court-martialed; the trial lasted into December. Instead of making any real effort at a defense, Mitchell used the trial as a forum to present his ideas on the proper role and organization of an aeronautics branch.

He achieved the attention and publicity he desired, but the cost was high. Mitchell was found guilty of conduct prejudicial to military discipline and of a nature to bring discredit to the military service. He was sentenced to 5 years' suspension from active duty at half pay but chose to retire from active service.

Congress displayed acceptance of the new concepts of aerial warfare by passing the Air Corps Act of 1926 that changed the name of the Army Air Service to the Army Air Corps.

This gave the implication that the Air Corps would be capable of independent and support operations. Senior Army officers reduced the impact of the legislation by financial constrictions.

The activation of the General Headquarters Air Force at Langley Field on March 1, 1935, marked the nation's acceptance of new aviation capabilities. All Air Corps pursuit, attack, and bombardment groups were assigned to it.

Because of the demonstrated importance of air power in Europe during World War II, the United States developed its air services as quickly as production and training would permit.

In an executive reorganization of the War Department on June 20, 1941, the Army Air Force was established under the command of Gen. "Hap" Arnold and given authority over Army aviation matters.

The United States entered the war in December 1941, but the Anglo-American combined bomber offensive against Germany wasn't instituted in Europe until Jan. 21, 1943. Day-flying, American bombers required fighter escorts to make sustained attacks with conventional weapons against heavily defended German targets.

A substantial number of these fighters were flown by black military aviators trained at an isolated complex near Tuskegee, Alabama. These pilots were trained separately because the Armed Forces were segregated until 1948. Under the command of Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., they flew over 15,000 sorties and completed more than 1,500 missions.

Employing demolition ordnance, highly effective incendiary bombs, and the first two atomic weapons, the U.S. 20th Air Force brought about Japan's surrender in August 1945 without a ground invasion on its home islands.

Arnold, known as the architect of U.S. air power, worked out plans for the new Air Force with encouragement from his commander, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall, who believed the Army Air Forces had, by their performance during the war, earned a place as a separate service.

Working closely with Arnold was Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, who replaced him as commanding general of the Army Air Forces in February 1946. When Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower replaced Marshall as Army Chief of Staff, he helped Spaatz with plans for establishing an independent Air Force.

photo by Senior Airman Greg Vaughan

An Air Force combat controller relays messages to exercise Tri-Crab '97 participants.

On September 18, 1947, the Air Force became an independent service with a status equal with the Army and Navy.

In describing this day, Lt. Gen. James "Jimmy" Doolittle, marking the historic signing of the National Security Act that created the U.S. Air Force, said: "This is the day Billy Mitchell dreamed of."

Spaatz became the first Chief of Staff of the Air Force and W. Stuart Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 that called for equal treatment within the military services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. The Air Force was the first service to complete desegregation.

On June 24, 1948, the Soviets blockaded Berlin. The Western Allies had no choice but to rely on airlift if their sectors in Berlin were to survive. The task of supplying Berlin by air devolved upon the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, commanded by Gen. Curtis E. LeMay.

The airlift was successful. Frustrated, on May 4, 1949, Soviet authorities reopened the roads and rail lines to traffic bound for Berlin, but the airlift continued through September, as the Western Allies created a stockpile in the event of a renewed blockade.

With the end of the fighting in Korea, President Dwight Eisenhower called for a "New Look" at national defense. The result of this reexamination was a greater reliance on nuclear weapons and air power to deter war.

Instead of maintaining the large Army and Navy that had fought the Korean Conflict, Eisenhower chose to invest in the Air Force, especially the Strategic Air Command. Nuclear deterrence would prevent war at an ac-

ceptable cost, thus providing security with solvency.

The Vietnam experience made possible the development of advanced weapons systems and other technological devices. Vietnam also provided the testing ground for these new devices and tactics for using them. Of more importance, despite all the negative factors, the American military did what its civilian leaders asked. The war was not lost because of military inadequacies. Within the framework of political restrictions, the Armed Forces functioned effectively.

From the Nixon through the Carter administrations, the prevailing theme was realistic deterrence. However, with President Ronald Reagan in 1981, emphasis shifted to increased military capability.

While maintaining his predecessors' strategy of maintaining a creditable force to respond to aggression, a renewed buildup of strategic forces evolved.

Reagan ordered the liberation of the Caribbean Island of Grenada from a Communist takeover in October 1983 and used Air Force F-111 aircraft and Navy A-6s to carry out an air strike on Libya in April 1986. Public support for military preparedness continued to grow.

In Desert Storm, the combined power of American and coalition forces decisively defeated Iraqi forces, liberating Kuwait. In the final analysis, the swiftness, decisiveness and scope of the coalition's victory came from the wise and appropriate application of air power. Not surprisingly, American casualties were lower than in any previous conflict.

Desert Storm encouraged the Kurds in northern Iraq to revolt against Saddam Hussein. When the Iraqi Army brutally suppressed the rebellion in March 1991, more than 500,000 Kurds fled to the Turkish border.

To bring relief to the refugees and encourage them to return to their homes, the United States initiated Operation Provide Comfort in April 1991.

Provide Comfort sustained hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees, reduced the population pressure on Southeastern Turkey and demonstrated the continued military weakness of Saddam Hussein.

In 1991, 70 years of socialism and the collapse of centralized planning led to dire poverty and hunger in the Soviet Union. The United States initiated Operation Provide Hope in February 1992, to deliver emergency aid and to encourage the movement toward democracy and free markets.

In July 1992, the United States launched Operation Provide Promise to airlift food and medical supplies to the people of Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia. Provide Promise became one of the largest Air Force humanitarian airlifts in history. In October 1993, it surpassed in duration the Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949, which lasted 462 days.

The Air Force has been an active player in many evacuation and humanitarian operations. In May 1991, the Air Force delivered hundreds of tons of emergency supplies to Bangladesh and a year later, launched a joint operation to fight the famine in Somalia. In 1991, the Air Force evacuated 18,000 Americans from the Philippines when Mount Pintatubo erupted.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew struck South Florida and the Air Force delivered 20,000 tons of supplies and almost 12,000 passengers to the disaster area. Natural disaster struck again with flooding in the Midwest and again the Air Force delivered over a million sandbags and 14 water purification systems.

The world of the 21st century will be an uncertain one, but one that we know will witness the growing interdependence of people and the continued need for resolute and responsible American leadership.

This leadership challenge demands that we now make the hard planning decisions necessary so we can confront with confidence and assurance the ever-evolving, ever-changing, ever-dynamic world of the future.

photo by Senior Airman Greg Vaughan

An airman performs simulated rescue care procedures on a Tri-Crab '97 exercise participant as a Navy Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Five helicopter arrives for medical evacuation.

8th Radio Squadron Mobile at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas in 1949.

A Tough Start

Reflections on AIA's Heritage

by Dr. Dennis Casey
AIA/HO
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

On May 8, 1945, a quickly assembled new German government surrendered unconditionally to the Allies at Rheims.

For many, the agony and utter hopelessness brought on by several long years of a world war came to a long, sought-after end.

Although the Japanese still had to be defeated and that would happen a few weeks later, the focus became demobilization and shifting the country back as quick as possible to a peacetime economy.

One man destined to play a fundamentally important role in the establishment of one of the Air Intelligence Agency's predecessor commands found himself being freed from a prisoner-of-war camp in May 1945.

Like anyone else cooped up for two and a half years in a POW camp, then — Lt. Col. Richard Klocko, a fighter pilot, was looking forward to the three months of rest and relaxation he had been promised. He planned to spend the time with his family in Miami Beach. The fourth day into his much deserved R and R, Klocko received orders to report to Washington, D.C.

Klocko became one of few Americans asked to respond to a perception of the world that was being drowned out from the immediate post-war celebrations of 1945. This perception took alarm at the likelihood of the world separating into two great camps, one of these controlled by the Soviet Union.

Backed by a Soviet army of 10 million men and women occupying much of Eastern Europe, Joseph Stalin, began installing governments in the region subservient to his wishes in 1945. Ignoring promises made at Yalta and elsewhere, Stalin soon controlled much of Eastern Europe and appeared eager to extend even further the range of Soviet domination.

Klocko remained in the policy division, planning and programming for Army Intelligence until 1946, when he was put in charge of a new division that was to have control of special intelligence for the Army.

For nearly a year Klocko essentially learned the business of intelligence. As he explained years later, "...in Frank Rowlett's little office, with a blackboard, we had skull sessions for several months in which he was explaining to me the business ... I had been there about a year and had visited various Army Security Agency units and some Naval Security Group outfits. I got a pretty good feel for what this whole thing was about."

The issues swirling around Klocko came to a head July 26, 1947. On that day, President Truman signed the National Security Act into law. In a single swipe of the pen, the President established a new defense organization and with it a new Department of the Air Force.

Klocko received orders to establish a special intelligence function for the Air Force. Now a colonel, Klocko faced a difficult assignment. Negotiation had to begin soon with the U.S. Army to determine what resources would be transferred to the Air Force. New personnel had to be indoctrinated and a new organization roughly parallel to the Army Security Agency and the Naval Security Group had to be made operational.

Klocko and others struggled over the question of which organizational format would best serve the needs of the fledgling Air Force. When no solution was forthconfing, Klocko suggested the new Air Force organization should operate as a command and generally within the Air Staff.

In 1948, the Air Force did not have agencies in their organizational framework but they did have groups. Klocko then recommended the new organization should be called the Air Force Security Group, activated June 23, 1948.

Klocko received advice not to saddle the new outfit with the designation of group — it was too restrictive for a major command and it could not claim a high enough rank for its commander to compete fairly for resources and to represent itself and its services on a level playing field to other major commands.

Consequently, on Oct. 20, 1948, the United States Air Force Security Service was activated at Arlington Hall Station, Va. USAFSS, as the Air Force's newest major command, faced an array of hurdles to be crossed. Where would its personnel come from? What equipment would be assigned? What equipment would it require? What would its overall mission be?

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Klocko

USAFSS had been made a MAJCOM on the understanding that it would pick up significant communications intelligence and communications security responsibilities. By December 1948, an agreement between the Army and the Air Force answered some of these questions.

The 1st, 2nd and 8th Radio Squadrons Mobile and the 136th Radio Communications Security Detachment transferred from the Army Security Agency to USAFSS. In February 1949, USAFSS formally assumed control of these units and their 1,187 manpower authorizations.

The next issue was where to locate the new command. Both the Army and Navy intelligence functions were located in Washington, D.C. Once the Strategic Air Command and the Tactical Air Command relocated, the curtain lifted as well for the location of USAFSS away from the national capitol. The Air Force approached the Army and asked about the possible use by the Air Force of surplus property.

Kelly Air Force Base was chosen because of the location and the availability of room. General Cabell, knowing eventually that USAFSS would need its own home, pushed and received authorization in the military construction program to build a new structure, building 2000, to house the new major command. By summer 1949, construction had started on the building.

Meanwhile USAFSS had to move quickly out of Arlington Hall because the Army was expanding and desperately needed the space. As 12th Air Force was moving out of Brooks Air Force Base, and half a building was available, Brooks Air Force Base became the USAFSS address for a while.

One of the greatest difficulties

USAFSS construction in June 1952. Present day Air Intelligence Agency building 2000.

facing the new Air Force Security Service rested on finding good noncommissioned officers.

Tactical Air Force requirements dictated that the best noncommissioned officers already assigned to subordinate field units needed to be kept in place until replacements could be trained.

A significant effort began in 1948 to spot promising personnel in the Army and Air Force and bring them on board. Transfers from the Army filled some of the vacant positions but it would take several years before manpower strength levels reached acceptable levels.

The condition of the equipment assigned to the 1st, 2nd and 8th Radio Squadrons Mobile represented serious problems. All of it lacked processing capabilities.

The equipment that migrated to the Air Force was World War II vintage and consisted primarily of radios and radio direction-finding equipment that could not be used. To make matters worse, the new command had not yet developed R and D requirements and would not do so until 1953. The best equipment USAFSS owned were some antiquated H-1 vans that were on their last legs.

Again, several years would pass before the command's equipment problems would be satisfactorily resolved.

In just three short years, the first fleeting thought of a new security organization had been processed, matured, developed and later turned into reality. The one person present during the entire metamorphosis was Richard Klocko.

In many respects he is considered the father of USAFSS. His commitment, beginning just days after the end of World War II in Europe, never faltered. Even when prospects for the future for his new organization were anything but bright, he stayed the course and worked hard to get the new USAFSS mission up and running. His efforts were certainly not in vain.

After enduring a tough start, USAFSS eventually expanded to become the fundamental link it is today in America's security.

"Born in Battle"

390th holds birthday bash

by Senior Airman David Johnson Jr.
390th IS
Kadena Air Base, Japan

While the Air Force celebrates its 50th Anniversary, members of the 390th Intelligence Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, will commemorate 30 years of airborne combat intelligence operations in the Pacific theater.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for people in the unit, past and present, to reflect on our rich history," said Senior Master Sgt. Leroy Miller, superintendent of communications information.

The 390th festivities, being held Sept. 4 through Sept. 6, will include a golf tournament, open house, a unit picnic, a Rivet Joint static display and tours of historic sites.

The highlight of the 30th Anniversary will be the formal dining out Sept. 6. Keynote speaker is the founder of the 390th IS, retired Maj. Gen. Doyle Larson, national president of the Air Force Association.

The 390th was truly born in battle. Founded July 15, 1967, by then — Lt. Col. Doyle Larson and 20 Security Service personnel as the 6990th Electronic Security Squadron, it directly supported RC-135 Combat Apple operations in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. The 6990th also supported C-130 operations at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Vietnam, and Korat Royal Air Base, Thailand.

Today, members of the 390th are recognized worldwide for their continued excellence. They participated in operations during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The squadron's commitment in the Persian Gulf continues through ongoing support of Rivet Joint contingency operations in Saudi Arabia.

The 390th is also know for its competitive spirit and operational excellence in exercise operations such as Green Flag, Cope Thunder and Keen Sword. Unit members have helped national-level leaders establish critical policies for battlefield commanders in directing forces for both exercise scenarios and real world conflicts and aided local commanders to improve day-to-day operations.

In addition to the founder, the 390th IS will have the privilege of hosting several past commanders and has extended invitations to most AIA commanders in the Pacific.

Air Force members endure decades of change

Bar Prince burning in the Misawa Fire of 1966. The fire started from a gas range in a store about 200 yards in front of the main gate of Misawa, destroying 440 buildings and homes in the heart of the city's business district. Photo courtesy of Frederick Teschner.

by Senior Airman Jacquelyn Johnson &
Airman 1st Class Jennifer Gregoire
HQ AIA/PA
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

The Air Force's first challenge was to creep from under the Army's shadow and establish its own identity.

Since 1947, airmen have participated in such conflicts as Vietnam, Desert Storm and Bosnia. But it's not only conflict that has left its mark on the Air Force. Social change has played just as much, if not more, of a role in shaping the Air Force of today.

Members of Air Intelligence Agency or its predecessor units have endured these changes.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Russell Castle joined the Air Force in 1946, when the Air Force was still the Army Air Forces, as a radio intercept operator.

"We wore army uniforms. They were drab cotton and were starched so thick that they stood up by themselves," said Castle.

"The 1505s were tan and were much softer. The work shoes were rough leather. The uniforms have improved and they are much more comfortable to wear.

The dress code was strict on uniforms and haircuts. We used to walk around on patrol through the training company, take names and turn them in to their first sergeant for disciplinary action if they weren't worn correctly. Back then, noncommissioned officers could administer disciplinary action more often than today," Castle said.

"I joined the Air Force in 1974 because my dad was a Russian cryptologic linguist for Security Service for 20 years," said Senior Master Sgt. Marco Aldaz, superintendent of current operations, 67th Intelligence Wing Operations Support Squadron.

"So I knew about being a cryptologic linguist and I knew about U.S. Air Force Security Service and it sounded interesting," Aldaz added.

He spent two and a half years as

a Serbo-Croatian cryptologic linguist and then cross-trained to be an Arabic cryptologic linguist.

After teaching Arabic for a couple of years, "I was deployed to support Dessert Shield and Dessert Storm. When the war was over I came back and resumed teaching," said Aldaz.

"When we downgraded from a major command to an agency, we had a much smaller force than before," said Castle.

"Airmen needed to work hard, study and get involved with the activities around them and help one another out as much as they could," said Castle.

"A supervisor may forget that an airman is not fully trained and that the airman may make a lot of mistakes," Castle added.

With the operations tempo increasing with higher temporary duty rates to compensate for a smaller force, Aldaz believes "it will cause a detrimental affect on one's family."

"I think I noticed a technology surge about that time where many of the things we used to do were becoming computerized, especially in my career field — collection management/analysis," said Curman "Marty" Martin, lead national systems planning officer of the space planning branch.

Martin started his career in 1967 as a radio communications analyst when Air Intelligence Agency was U.S. Air Force Security Service.

Marty Martin in 1972.

"Technology was taking over and reports were being generated through computers. Much of the analysis criteria was in the computer and you just had to run certain parameters through a program and it would help you in your analysis, which in a way was good.

"We were able to do things a lot faster, but I was saddened by the fact that a lot of the human element was taken away or taken out of it.

"The change from USAFSS to Electronic Security Command was a definite technology surge," said Martin.

"A lot of the things we did were done manually, but then came electric typewriters, then computers," said Castle.

Russell Castle in 1946.

We could store more information and recover more information from the field. A lot of what was done was done more accurately," said Castle, who retired in 1974.

Castle worked as a civilian at the Air Force Cryptologic Center for five years as the plans and programs security officer and then another five years at the Air Force Information Warfare Center as the budget officer.

"I also noticed a change in the people," said Martin.

"The dedication was always there, but it seemed that with the changes that were taking place the dedication seemed to be renewed in a different way," Martin added.

"I've always been impressed with the people I've met in USAFSS, ESC and AIA. I've always thought they were the cream of the crop in the Air Force," said Martin.

Frederick Teschner, computer specialist at the Cryptologic System Group and detailed at the 67th Intelligence Support Flight, remembers when women first started coming into ESC.

"There were very few women and none in my career field that I knew of came in until the 1970s," said Teschner.

"ESC has always been projected with the idea that only the top people in our minds worked in this command. We took pride in that fact and avoided doing things that could cause dissension among the people we worked with," said Teschner, who joined the Air Force in 1958 as a morse code operator.

"If AIA is in fact going to be the information operator for the Air Force, we need to learn how all the disciplines work so we can be more effective," said Martin.

"We need to be experts or at least know where to go to get the information from the various disciplines. That's going to be the key to being effective information operators.

"The ability to present to the warfighter the most comprehensive information picture of the battle space you can provide is the way we're going in the future," Martin added.

"Also, I think we have to be able to protect that data and to be able to use it as a weapon. AIA needs to stay ahead of the game as far as technology is concerned, because that's what makes us lethal," said Martin.

"Back in the 1960s, we couldn't forsee the future. Each time we got an advance we would go to great strides and leaps forward. Technological advances were used to the fullest extent possible. The Air Force will lead the rest of the country, and I definately think space is where to go," Teschner added.

World events have and will continue to be the driving force behind the Air Force mission.

Through the years, Air Intelligence Agency and its predecessor units have been there at times witnessing the change and at others being the catalyst for the change.

So when was the best time to be in the Air Force?

"I honestly don't think the best time has gotton here yet," said Teschner, who retired as a senior master sergeant in 1981.

Left, Harpo Griffith, AIA visual information specialist, helps Rob Young, historian for NAIC, set-up NAIC's display. Griffith did all the design and built a scale model for AIA's 50th Anniversary display.

Exhibit spotlights intel story

by 1st Lt Matthew Mayberry
HQ AIA/PA
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

In telling Air Intelligence Agency's proud story, an exhibit was created which informed thousands at an Air Force 50th Anniversary celebration at Las Vegas and will continue to provide a lasting testament to intelligence personnel throughout the world.

Over 250,000 people attended the symposium in Las Vegas. "There were more people in our area than through the other displays because we had so much neat stuff," according to G.B. "Harpo" Griffith, a graphics specialist at Headquarters AIA.

Griffith said Maj. Gen. John Casciano, Air Force director for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, remarked that the AIA display was the best one he saw at the 50th Anniversary Air Force Symposium.

"During my visit to Nellis Air Force Base for the 50th Anniversary celebration, I was very impressed by the outstanding artwork and graphics layouts in the display honoring 50 years of Air Force intelligence," Casciano wrote in a letter to Griffith.

Creating the exhibit was a monumental undertaking. Over 5 thousand pictures were culled over, resulting in 193 collage pieces being placed on the display walls. These photos came from a variety of sources, including the Smithsonian, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, National Air Intelligence Center, National Air and Space Administration, private individuals, Air Force Association members and retirees.

A committee, headed by Maj. Deborah Divich, then a reservist at HQ AIA, solicited photos from various sources and selected which ones would eventually make it as part of the exhibition. The history and graphics offices teamed to decide what went where.

"The project had a budget of over $120,000 and involved personnel from across the command. Blue suiters from Nellis Air Force Base helped set up the exhibit once it arrived in Las Vegas," said Griffith.

Production of all artwork was contracted out at a cost of $20,000.

A scale model of the exhibit went to the Senior Intelligence Officers conference at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, this spring, where Maj. Gen. Michael Hayden and Casciano were able to see what the product would eventually look like. "The generals were enthralled with the exhibit and ordered it to go forward without any changes," said Griffith.

The committee went full force with the project in April. They sought out photographs they could use and the visual information flight started scanning in photos.

"No one had ever done the work required to produce the exhibit and the visual information flight didn't have the equipment required to do the work. Advanced computer hard drives and other computer equipment had to be procured," Griffith said.

Now that the exhibit is back from Las Vegas, a modified version will remain as a permanent testimony to AIA's heritage.

The number of photos will be reduced to 101. Initially, to justify the cost, it was discussed that the final product would be constructed so that it would be a permanent display that could be moved to different locations.

The display is now at the AIA building at Goodfellow Air Force Base in a room renovated for the display. Part of the exhibit will always be housed there.

Taking advantage of the Air Force

by 2nd Lt. Bret Lewellen
HQ AIA/PA
Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

"An excellent example of opportunities available in the Air Force and all of the U.S. military services is a small town boy from South Dakota who can go from an Air Force no-striper to a lieutenant colonel with an advanced college degree who saw the world from Thailand to Saudi Arabia," said Lt. Col. William Radigan, chief of the Collection Operations Branch at Headquarters Air Intelligence Agency.

Radigan entered the Air Force on August 1, 1963 when John F. Kennedy was president and Gen. Curtis Lemay was Air Force Chief of Staff. He was the oldest of 11 children in a small-town from South Dakota.

When he decided to join the military, he wasn't sure which branch to serve in.

"The Navy implied water, but there's not much of that in South Dakota. The Army might have been fun; if you lived in South Dakota, you did a lot of hunting. In the Army you'd get to shoot at people, but I felt they'd shoot back. I excluded the Marine Corps, leaving the Air Force."

Radigan has had eight overseas tours and spent a total of 20 years overseas counting permanent change of station and temporary duty time.

He's seen several changes over the years, including changes in the organizational structure of the Air Force and numerous uniform changes; however, the biggest change he's noticed is the people.

Air Force members didn't have the education they do now. "It's not uncommon today for an enlisted technician to have a college degree associated with his specialty while his officer, supervisor/commander might have a management degree," he said.

Radigan's goal when he entered was to retire at 20 years as a master sergeant with a college degree. "This was slightly different than the average individual, since most enlisted people planned to complete 30 years of service and few pursued a college education," said Radigan.

Radigan spent several years enlisted before he entered the Airman Education and Commissioning Program in 1975. He found it difficult to complete his bachelor's degree because most bases only had the basic college courses, and he was overseas often, so achieving his goal became increasingly difficult.

"When the opportunity arose to complete a four-year degree and receive a commission through AECP, I jumped at the opportunity although I was literally one of the oldest second lieutenants in the Air Force. I was 30 years old. At the time that was the maximum allowable age to receive a commission."

Another area Radigan has noticed change in is the distinctions between airman, noncommissioned officers and officers. They have become less rigid. There were separate clubs for each of them.

Female airmen, called WAF's, were few in numbers and had limited opportunities.

The distinctions between service members extended to off base privileges as well. Each division of personnel had restrictions on how far they could be away from base without being on temporary duty or on leave. Airmen had a range of 100 miles they could be from base, noncommissioned officer's could be 250 miles and officers could be 400-500 miles away.

The structure of the Air Force has also changed. "The warfighters were Strategic Air Command and Tactical Air Command, as opposed to unified commands. We didn't have unified commands back then," said Radigan.

"The mission of the Air Force is much more complicated now that the polarized world has changed so much, and we find ourselves in contingencies in far and distant lands."

The way the Air Force is perceived by foreign countries has also changed.

"In the early years of my career there was a significant concern in second-world countries of the threat from the Soviet Union and of course Europe was still rebuilding. The U.S. was looked upon as the major deterrent to this threat in the world."

"I still feel the Air Force and military services provide significant opportunities for someone with a background that has limited opportunities, once you've graduated from high school," said Radigan.

"There is absolutely no reason today, that an individual could not leave a small town in any state, join any of the branches of the service, work hard for 34 years and quite possibly retire as a lieutenant colonel or higher. I'm not sure such an opportunity is available to that individual in the civilian sector."